REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1-6 and 13 are amended by the present response without introducing any new matter to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejection.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite; and Claims 1-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by Rudland et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,925,518, herein Rudland).

In response to the rejection of Claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, Claims 1-6 have been amended to recite "at least one dumb gateway" and "at least one bus system" throughout. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1-6 are in compliance with all requirements under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph and respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-6 under §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

In regard to the rejection of Claims 1-13 under §102(e) as anticipated by Rudland, Applicant respectfully traverses that rejection.

In a non-limiting example of the present invention, Fig.3 shows several devices 5,6 that are connected to respective bus systems 7,8 which are connected to respective dumb gateways 3,4. These dumb gateways 3,4 are connected to a multimedia fiber-optic network optimized for automotive applications or a Media Oriented Systems Transport (MOST) network 2. Via a common network layer 300, these dumb gateways 3,4 connect to the MOST network 2 which connects to an intelligent gateway 1. Using this connection, the intelligent gateway logically replaces the dumb gateways 3,4 and controls the functionality and commands of the bus systems 7,8 and in turn the devices 5,6 connected to the bus systems 7,8.

Claim 1 recites, in part,

> A dumb gateway device for connecting at least one bus system with a common network layer that is designed to build a transparent access network by connecting the at least one bus system via the dumb gateway device to said common network layer, said dumb gateway device comprising:
>
> a bus service interface configured to access all functionality and commands of said at least one bus system via said common network layer from an intelligent gateway connected to said common network layer.

Rudland describes a bridging system for a communication system. Further, Rudland describes a first network 100 and a second network 105 connected using two gateways 107, 108. However, in Rudland, the gateway device 107 shown in Figure 3, as well as the other gateway devices (such as 108), are not shown to be dumb gateways because each of the described gateways is operating with respect to all proxies that connect devices to the bus system.

In addition, Rudland does not describe or suggest a bus service interface configured to access all functionality and commands of the at least one bus system via a common network layer from an intelligent gateway connected to a common network layer, as is recited in Claim 1.

In other words, in Claim 1, any proxy that is located at any intelligent gateway has direct access to the remote bus, in particular via the common network layer. In addition, the direct access applies to the remote bus where the real or physical device is located as well as to the bus where the device will show up.

In contrast, in Rudland, the proxy is always located at the gateway that is directly connected to the bus where the device will show up. As a result, there is no teaching or suggestion in Rudland of a "dumb" gateway as it is recited in Claim 1.

In addition, the connecting network shown in Rudland is not a common network layer. Instead, Rudland describes a physical network that could be IEEE1394 or Ethernet

which would result, in both cases, in completely different network layers. In contrast, Claim 1 recites a ***common*** network layer, for example, based on TCP/IP and UPnP technology. This feature is not described or suggested in Rudland.

The fact that only the intelligent gateway hosts proxies in both directions as well as for different bus systems is clearly derived from the features recited in Claim 1. Claim 1 describes a dumb gateway with a bus service interface that allows access to all functionalities and commands on a bus. The functionality of the bus is accessed via the common network layer from an intelligent gateway. Therefore, the component that accesses the bus commands, e.g. the proxy, is operating on the intelligent gateway. Further, the dumb gateway provides the connection and the common network layer allows access to the buses connected via the dumb gateway from the intelligent gateway.

Thus, since the intelligent gateway is connected to the common network layer and not to a certain bus protocol, the intelligent gateway must host proxies in both directions in order to enable communication from one bus system to another. In addition, it is clear that different bus systems are addressed from the intelligent gateway, otherwise there would be no need for a bus service interface. It is the nature of an interface that it allows an object to address the same functionality on different objects.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 and claims depending therefrom, patentably distinguish over Rudland.

Moreover, independent Claims 7 and 13 recite similar limitations to Claim 1 in that they describe a common network layer that is designed to build a transparent access network. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 7 and 13 and claims depending therefrom, similarly patentably distinguish over Rudland.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal Allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-13 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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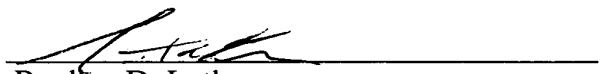

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